

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

----- 018206

R 221030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8089

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: FMG ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT LABATT ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: FMG HAS SEIZED ON THIN PRETEXT TO ATTEMPT RESTRICT TRAVEL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF LABOR ATTACHE. EMBASSY TRYING OLD FAST AGAINST LIMITATIONS AND HOPING AVOID CONFRONTATION, BUT NEXT MOVE LIES WITH MEA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN NOTE FEBRUARY 18, MEA REPLIED TO ROUTING NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL FOR LABATT BY STATING TERSELY THAT IT IS "NOT COGNIZANT OF EXISTENCE OF LABATT", DENYING PERMISSION FOR TRIP, ASKING THAT EMBASSY "TERMINATE ALL ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF LABOR MATTERS" IN WHICH LABATT ENGAGED, AND SUGGESTING THAT EMBASSY "EFFECTUATE, IF NECESSARY, HIS (LABATT'S) REASSIGNMENT."

2. SINCE MEA NOTE INSPIRED BY INADVERTENT USE OF INTERNAL FUNCTIONAL DESIGNATION "LABOR ATTACHE" RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC TITLE "SECOND SECRETARY" ON EMBASSY TRAVEL NOTIFICATION, EMBASSY REPLY SEEKS PASS OFF ENTIRE MEA APPROACH AS MISUNDERSTANDING IN HOPE OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION. EMBASSY NOTE SPECIFICALLY POINTS OUT THAT LABATT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED IN SUCCESSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUES OF DIPLOMATIC LIST AS "SECOND SECRETARY (LABOR)", AND

TRUSTS THAT IN WAKE OUR CLARIFICATION MEA WILL INTERPOSE NO FURTHER OBJECTION TO LABATT PERFORMING NORMAL FUNCTIONS OR PROCEEDING ON PLANNED INTERNAL TRAVEL.

3. COMMENT: HARSHNESS OF MEA NOTE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, THOUGH WE CAN SUGGEST FOUR POSSIBLE MOTIVATIONS: (A) MEA NOTE MAY SIMPLY BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR FMG TO SHOW DISPLEASURE OVER USG SINS OF COMMISSION OR OMISSION, SUCH AS IBRD VOTE ABSTENTION; (B) NOTE MAY REFLECT FMG SENSIVITY OVER LABOR ISSUES DURING UDOJI-RELATED INDUSTRIAL STRIFE (UK LABATT TELLS US SIMILAR PRESSURE APPLIED DURING 1971 LABOR TROUBLES); (C) MEA MAY AGAIN BE ATTEMPTING TO ASSERT ITS CONTROL OVER ALL EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH FMG OFFICIALS (LABATT HAS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH TOP LEVELS IN MINISTRY OF LABOR AND MEA MAY WANT TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THIS CONTACT); OR (D) UNITED LABOR CONGRESS (ULC) OFFICIALS MAY HAVE APPROACHED MEA TO HALT PLANNED TRIP OUT OF PIQUE OVER LABATT'S REFUSAL TO SUPPORT THEIR BID TO REPLACE CURRENT AALC REPRESENTATIVE OR OUT OF FEAR THAT UNION LEADERS IN VARIOUS STATES WILL REVEAL DEPTH OF FEELING AGAINST CURRENT ULC LEADERSHIP.

4. EMBASSY'S DELIBERATELY LOW-KEY RESPONSE IS AIMED AT DEFUSING ISSUE, BUT SUCCESS OF THIS TACTIC WILL DEPEND ON MEA WILLINGNESS TO LET MATTER REST. POUCHING EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO AF/W AND WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, LABOR ATTACHES, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2003  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FMG ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT LABATT ACTIVITIES SUMMARY: FMG HAS SEIZED ON THIN PRETEXT TO ATTEMPT RESTRICT  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PFOR, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006